

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-8 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (currently amended) A gas compressor comprising:
a compressor main body which sucks, compresses, and discharges refrigerant gas, and an oil sump which stores oil for lubricating the compressor main body, the compressor main body being composed of a cylinder, side blocks ~~arranged~~ disposed at axial ends of the cylinder, a rotor rotatably mounted to undergo rotation ~~arranged~~ in the cylinder, vane grooves ~~formed so as to extend~~ extending inwardly from an outer peripheral surface of the rotor ~~to~~ toward an inner periphery thereof, and vanes slidable ~~accommodated in~~ respective ones of the vane grooves for slidably so as to be ~~capable of~~ advancing and retracting during rotation of the rotor;

a back pressure space including bottom portions of the vane grooves and attaining a middle pressure between a suction pressure and a discharge pressure during normal operation of the compressor main body;

a first high pressure oil passage establishing communication between the oil sump and the vane groove bottom

portions when the vanes are at their discharge stroke positions;

a second high pressure oil passage establishing communication between the oil sump and the back pressure space; and

an opening/closing valve for opening and closing the second high pressure oil passage.

2. (currently amended) A gas compressor according to ~~Claim 1~~, claim 1; wherein the opening/closing valve keeps the second high pressure oil passage open when the rotation of the rotor ~~compressor main body~~ is at rest, closes the second high pressure oil passage when the rotor ~~compressor main body~~ starts rotation, and keeps the second high pressure oil passage closed during normal operation of the compressor ~~main body~~.

3. (currently amended) A gas compressor according ~~Claim 1~~, claim 1; wherein the opening/closing valve keeps the second high pressure oil passage closed during normal operation of the compressor ~~main body~~ and keeps ~~it~~ the second high pressure oil passage open when the compressor is not performing normal operation and the oil pressure is low.

4. (currently amended) A gas compressor according to ~~Claim 1,~~ claim 1; wherein the back pressure space has a flat groove communicating with the vane groove bottom portions when the vanes are at their positions in transition from suction stroke to compression stroke, and ~~that~~ the vane groove bottom portions communicate with the first high pressure oil passage after the communication between the flat groove and the vane groove bottom portions is interrupted.

5. (currently amended) A gas compressor according to ~~Claim 1,~~ claim 1; wherein a downstream end portion of the second high pressure oil passage opens into the vane groove bottom portions, ~~with~~ when the vanes ~~being~~ are situated at their discharge stroke positions.

6. (currently amended) A gas compressor according to ~~Claim 4,~~ claim 4; wherein the downstream end portion of the second high pressure oil passage opens into the flat groove.

7. (currently amended) A gas compressor according to ~~Claim 1,~~ claim 1; wherein the opening/closing valve is movably arranged so as to open and close the second high pressure oil passage and has a valve element situated at a position where the valve element closes the flow passage and an elastic member ~~capable of~~ for imparting an elastic force to the valve element to place the valve element at a position

where the valve element opens the passage, the valve element moving under a pressure of high pressure oil to a position where the valve element closes the flow passage during normal operation of the compressor and moving to a position where the valve element opens the flow passage by the elastic force of the elastic member ~~with~~ when the pressure of the high pressure oil ~~being~~ is lowered.

8. (currently amended) A gas compressor according to ~~Claim 7;~~ claim 7; wherein a differential pressure of the high pressure oil to which the discharge pressure in the compressor is imparted and middle pressure oil is applied to the valve element.